

APPENDIX

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as shown below.

Apparatus and methods consistent with the present invention [provide for identifying and processing mail using an identification code on a mailpiece as a redundant source of identification information in a mail sorting system. In one embodiment, this information is stored in a temporary database and used for the identification and processing of mail in a Remote Bar Code System (RBCS). In this embodiment, the identification code enables the automation of mail sorting and other processing tasks, reducing costs and delays in mail delivery services. In another embodiment, the identification and processing of mail occurs in an Identification Code Sorting (ICS) system. In this embodiment, a long-term database allows for mail sorting and other processing tasks on a national or global level] identify and sort a mailpiece with destination information by sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece. If the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece, the mailpiece is identified using a code on the back of the mailpiece. If the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, then the mailpiece is sorted in an identification code system. In the identification code system, an identification code is applied to the back of the mailpiece and a postal code is applied to the front of the mailpiece in accordance with the destination information. An

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identification file corresponding to the identification code is then created. The
identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code
system.

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